

Initiative Name and Acronym – RCPP Middle Cedar Partnership Project

Initiative Description/Summary:

The Middle Cedar Partnership Project (MCP) seeks resources to advance implementation of nutrient and flood reduction practices in targeted areas of the Middle Cedar Watershed, a 2,417 square mile watershed, which is part of the larger Cedar River Watershed. The Middle Cedar Watershed is located in east central Iowa. The project seeks to target funds to five HUC 12 watersheds located in Benton, Tama, and Black Hawk Counties. The five HUC 12 watersheds total 135,000 acres.

The Middle Cedar Watershed is designated as one of nine priority watersheds by the Iowa Water Resources Coordinating Council (IWRCC) under the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Priority watersheds were chosen based on annual average levels of nitrogen and phosphorus export. Iowa has dedicated \$4.1 million to establish watershed projects to demonstrate practices identified in the Nutrient Reduction Strategy in the nine targeted watersheds. In the Middle Cedar, two such projects were awarded funding in early 2014 and are currently underway. The Miller Creek Water Quality Initiative Project was awarded \$499,530 and has been utilizing creative outreach strategies to educate farmers about conservation practices. The Benton/Tama Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Project was awarded \$468,000 and has been targeting seed corn growers in promoting cover crops and other strategies.

This project will seek to expand the scope, outreach, and longevity of the ongoing Miller Creek and Benton/Tama Water Quality Initiative demonstration projects in five sub-watersheds in the Middle Cedar Watershed. Conservation practices currently identified include nutrient management, cover crops, bioreactors, saturated buffers, wetland creation, and wetland easements. To enhance adoption rates of conservation practices, the project partners will provide outreach to educate producers about the benefits of less widely adopted practices that hold significant promise for nutrient reduction.

Participating Counties See Attachment F Map:

Benton, Black Hawk, and Tama Counties.

Program Contact Information:

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Project Financial Assistance through EQIP:

- \$1,434,849

ProTracts Requirements:

1. Subaccount Guidance:

One subaccount is available in ProTracts to support this Initiative under RCPP EQIP 2014 titled "Middle Cedar Partnership Project."

Ranking Deadline for FY 15 of July 17, 2015, has been established.

Attachment E – RCPP Middle Cedar Partnership Project

2. Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool Guidance – Choice Lists and Matrix Data:

- a. Approved Land Types – The following applicable land types are eligible for this initiative:

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|---------|
| Crop |
| Other |
| Pasture |

- b. RCPP Application Type - State
- c. Approved Natural Resource Concerns:

| |
|--|
| Water Quality Degradation – Excess Nutrients in Surface and Groundwater |
| Nutrients in Surface Water |
| Nutrients in Groundwater |
| Water Quality Degradation – Excessive Sediment in Surface Water |
| Excessive Sediment in Surface Water |

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|--|
| Excess Water - Ponding, Flooding, Seasonal High Water Table, Seeps and Drifted Snow |
| Runoff, Flooding or Ponding |

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|--|
| Soil Quality Degradation – Organic Matter Depletion |
| Organic Matter Depletion |

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|--|
| Soil Erosion – Sheet, Rill and Wind Erosion |
| Sheet and Rill Erosion |

Note: No additional resource concerns may be added or used in ProTracts AERT to support this initiative.

- d. For this initiative the FY15 EQIP Cost List will be used for the Eligible Practices listed below with initiative or initiative HU rates.

CAP Practices (EQIP or EQIP HU Payment Rates)

| Practice Name | Practice Code |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Nutrient Management Plan | 104 |

Core Conservation Practices (Initiative or Initiative HU Payment Rates)

| Practice Name | Practice Code |
|---|---------------|
| Cover Crop | 340 |
| Constructed Wetland | 656 |
| Denitrifying Bioreactor | 747 |
| Nutrient Management | 590 |
| Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till | 329 |
| Vegetated Subsurface Drain Outlet | 739 |

Attachment E – RCPP Middle Cedar Partnership Project

- e. A Cost List has been developed and will be uploaded into ProTracts. This Cost List will be provided to the Field Office to be loaded into Toolkit.

3. Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool Guidance – Ranking Criteria Questions:

Ranking will be uploaded into ProTracts.

4. Additional Initiative Guidance:

The primary project partner for this project is the City of Cedar Rapids, Benton SWCD, Blackhawk SWCD and the Tama SWCD. There are 14 total project partners for this project. Project staff assigned to Water Quality Initiatives as part of the Nutrient Management Reduction Strategy in these watersheds will assist with project implementation.